361/131 [98 cont.] In general, it seems that only the coasts are settled on Ndeni, as well as on Vanikoro, and that the mountainous interior is uninhabited (4). In Medana's

4. D'Entrecasteaux, p. 378. D'Urville, p. 213. Moresby, p. 88. Joest in Baessler, p. 370.

312 time, every village had two wells which were dug shaft-like into the ground, with steps for climbing down, and were covered on top with boards (5). These wells are not mentioned

5. Dalrymple, p. 195.

712 by any of the more recent authors. On Ndeni and the Reef Islands, the villages are often fortified with breastworks of stone -- presumably only those in which the individual houses are not surrounded by a wall. On Ndeni in Carteret's day they were four feet, six inches high and laid out with projecting angles like bastions; on Nukapu, according to Markham, they consisted of semicircular walls, also four and a half feet high, arranged in two rows in such a way that the breastworks of the second row always covered the openings of the first (6). The

6. Quiros in Dalrymple, p. 165. Carteret, pp. 358 f. Markham, p. 145.

[361] Spaniards found a particularly interesting arrangement on Taumako: a small artificial island built entirely of coral stones a full fathom above the water. It had more than 70 houses and, according to the natives, served as a refuge during attacks by strange tribes (7).

7. Dalrymple, p. 127. Torres, in Burney, p. 288, is probably referring to this place: "Town surrounded by a

[98 cont.]

wall, with only one entrance and no gate" [cited in English]. Cf. also Moresby, p. 83.

[99] Economy

Like all the South Sea islanders, the inhabitants of the Santa Cruz group live primarily on vegetable food. Here, too, of course, one of the most important foods is coconut; in addition, bananas, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and breadfruit are commonly mentioned for the different islands, the last in two forms on Vanikoro, the wild form with seeds and the cultivated one without seeds. For Ndeni the Spanish reports also mention two species of almonds and pine cones, the latter also for Taumako; Dillon and D'Entrecasteaux also mention yams, cucumbers, and mangosteens on the main island, a fruit called etea on Tahiti, and on the same island a nut called marare, neither of which I was able to identify; Joest mentions a chestnut-like fruit called nde. Yams, Inocarpus, sago, Spondias, pandanus, and arrowroot are listed for Vanikoro. The most important foods, however, besides coconut, are taro and yams, and they seem to a certain extent to be vicarious on the different parts of the group. Taro plays the principal role on Vanikoro where yams occur only in the wild state, not cultivated. On Ndeni, on the other hand, taro is grown and used, but the greatest attention is given to the yam (1).

1. Dalrymple, pp. 88 f, 127. Carteret, pp. 351, 358. D'Entrecasteaux, pp. 369, 378. Labillardière, p. 253. Dillon, pp. 181, 238, 273, 293, 312. D'Urville, pp. 146, 170, 179, 215 f., etc. The same, Voyage au Pole Sud, V, p. 9. Lesson, Revue d'Anthropologie,

[139 cont.]
727 children of the defeated are carried off, and there is evidence of the relentless pursuit of victory in D'Urville's time when three villages were abandoned by their inhabitants and fell into ruins. Allegedly the victors confiscated the land, but it is not said whether they made use of it. Quiros speaks of slavery in [567] Taumako (2). The skulls of slain enemies were probably hung

2. D'Urville, pp. 166, 190. Dalrymple, p. 131. Dillon, p. 170. Joest in Baessler, p. 379, denies that there is slavery on Ndeni.

in the bachelors' houses, at least on Vanikoro. According to [566] the data that Quiros obtained in Taumako, cannibalism was not 726 practiced on Vanikoro (3). As a signal of peace, the waving of

3. Dillon, pp. 157, 232 (skulls of Europeans), 269. D'Urville, pp. 159, 217.

a green bush is mentioned by Quiros for Taumako and by Markham for Nukapu, while for Vanikoro Dillon mentions the throwing of twigs into the water. D'Urville speaks twice of the waving of white cloths, once toward Europeans; a European example for this is perhaps not to be definitely excluded (4).

4. Dalrymple, p. 128. Dillon, p. 145. D'Urville, pp. 172, 522. Markham, p. 145.

●712 The fortifications of the inhabitants of the northern islands have already been mentioned (5). The natives of Taumako,

5. Cf. pp. 37 and 49.

/174 cont./

361 [712]

entire village lies on a terrace that slopes down to the beach in a perpendicular wall approximately the height of a man (5). These

5. [Speiser, Südsee, Ill. 87, 92, top. Coote, Wanderings South and East, p. 162, actually shows a stone base and no wall around the house (Ethn., I, p. 91, footnote 5). -- According to Speiser, ibid., p. 292, there are usually two terraces, one above the other.]

are probably the walls that led earlier visitors to report fortified villages (6). In addition, however, each village is surrounded

6. [Material in Ethn., I, p. 98. On Markham's report on Nukapu, see below, p. 176, footnote 3.]

on the land side by a /Fig. 14 appears here/ wall the height of a man, and these walls run in a semicircle around the village and extend out across the reef, often far into the sea (7). Their

7. [Speiser, Südsee, Ill. 84.]

primary importance, however, is as the boundary of the /175/ village area, and only secondarily are they protective walls (1).

[712]

1. [Concerning the walls of the individual precincts of a village on Matema, however, Coombe, p. 199, says: "...it was shown to be quite protection enough for the archer, having let fly his shaft, to crouch behind while he fits another arrow to his bow" /cited in English/.]

/175 cont./

361 712 Not infrequently substantial bastion-like structures made of blocks of coral (Fig. 14) extend from the ends of the walls onto the reef. Their purpose is unknown. If they were larger, it might be conjectured that they were places of refuge in wartime, corresponding to the artificial islands that are found [on Taumako (2) and]

[516 133]

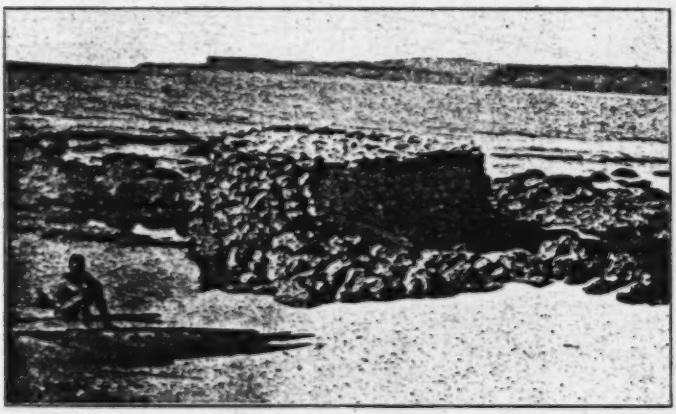

Fig. 14. Bastion-like structure of blocks of coral, built out into the sea at the end of the wall surrounding the village on the land side. (Speiser photo.)

2. [Ethn., I, p. 98.]

in Malaita. It is very doubtful that the beach walls serve for defense, since they do not form any real obstacle against an attack and, /Fig. 15 appears here/ in the absence of breastworks, grant no protection against arrows. Rather, it seems as though by means of them the people held solid the fairly steep slope of the village terraces toward the sea and through that, to escape from the forest, established themselves

/175 cont./

361 [312] on the shore. Walls were then required to give support to the slope and also to defy unusually heavy seas. In /176/ places where the coral forms a bank close to the shore, the lower terrace wall is lacking.

[363] [351] The houses stand rather close together, and the narrow paths between them are usually bordered with walls a meter

[371] [291]

[Fig. 15.] Group of houses surrounded by a wall on the Reef Island Matema. (From a photo. by Beattie, Hobart, in the possession of the R.-J.-M.)

high. [The same is true of the Reef island Matema (cf. Fig. 15).] The houses directly on the beach are always the men's houses, and one usually finds several, only one of which is occupied, however, while the others are in all stages of dilapidation. This is explained by the fact that each new village chief must build himself a new men's house, whereas the one of his predecessor, who is buried in his men's house, may no longer be entered and therefore falls into ruins (1).

[34] [622] [066]

1. [SRiser, Südsee, P. 295]